

Columbia Planning Unit Forest Land Planning

Cathlamet

Informal Meeting, November 1, 2006
Summary of Input

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with its planning effort for forested state trust lands in the Columbia planning unit, which generally includes state trust ownerships through southwest Washington region – the Columbia River area including Rock Creek, Washougal, Larch, Elochoman, Skamokawa, Salmon Creek, Mount St. Helens area including Toutle, Siouxon, Speelyai, Merwin, Davis Creek, and scattered parcels throughout the planning area.

Information gathered from this and subsequent public meetings and other input will assist DNR in developing management strategies specifically for these areas. Following are comments / ideas about the three main subject areas gathered at the Cathlamet meeting attended by representatives of recreational and environmental groups, trust beneficiaries, and forest products representatives.

Public Safety, Access, and Resource Abuse

- The removal of the bridge accessing the Elochoman Valley Road could limit access and increase traffic on Beaver Creek County Road.
- The 1700 road allows access to older people and families with limited mobility to state lands.
- Keep seasonal access open in some areas.
- Dumping of garbage can be an issue in some areas.
- People access state land by traveling across private ownership which can be closed at times.

Recreation

- Collect fees for recreation if the activity impacts state lands revenue production.
- Other uses on state trust lands like recreation potentially impact revenue production.

Habitat and Forest Management

- Habitat is managed most efficiently by increasing land base ownership.
- Marbled murrelet protection has delayed timber harvest on state trust lands.
- The long-term marbled murrelet strategy will impact areas currently available for timber harvesting.
- The amount of risk to timber purchasers is reduced by more recovery (scale) timber sales.

- There are concerns with how Access Road Revolving Funds (ARRF) funds are used and allocated. It appears to some that more money goes into the account than comes out to fix timber sale haul routes.
- Bridges are replacing culverts that appears to be allowing fish passage.
- DNR does not allow timber to be removed from the Riparian Management Zone corridors and it must be left on the ground.
- Leave trees left in clumps are less likely to blow over then individual placed trees.
- There is the desire to have DNR timber processed locally with mobile mills to create jobs near state trust lands.